(b) whether orders have not been issued to concerned departments to ensure quick payment to all pensioners whose pension have been stopped for one reasons or the other; and

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof V

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN I HE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M \L-LIKARJUN) : (a) The Pension Scheme ./as made applicable to those Cantonment Ecord Employees who retirei after 1-5-7G. Those who retired prior to 1-5-76 were paid Cos n-butory Provident Fund and other teimi ml benefits as applicable to them. Tne Go/i 'u-ment had received a letter recommeiA ling extension of the Pension Scheme to I *yat* Cantonment Board Employees who retired prior to 1-5-76 from a Member of the K; ya Sabha. After considering the matter he Hon'ble Member was informed that this 'ill not be possible.

(b) and (c) There are standing instructions to ensure quick disposal of cases related to grant of post-retirement benefits to ttie employees. The progress of timely release of pension to retired Cantonment Board employees is being monitored regularly.

Purchase orders for DMJ boots

2566. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : V PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of purchase order-; for iup ly of DMS boots and shoes issued by the .*A* gs of armed forces during the first six monl 1994-95;

(b) whether it is a fact that the cost an; .1; sis and installed capacity availability reportc *i* by DGQA in this regard has been completely ignored by the forces;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Cert[1] al Government Undertakings are being excluded from getting such purchase orders from Tie defence forces;

(d) whether orders to Ordnance Equipmc it Factory have decreased; and

(e) I ic^s and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN T! <E MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIK ARJUN : (a) An order for quantity ?.C X) pairs of boots at the rate of Rs. 227. *6i* v as placed by the Naval Headquarters on a private firm.

(b) the Naval Headquarters carry out their own cost analyses and capacity verification of the Firms before placing an order.

(c) No, Sir, Central Government Undertakings are free to participate in the tender and purchase orders are placed on them keeping in view rates quoted by them and the Government orders issued in this regard. According to the orders presently in force, if the price quoted by PS Us is within 10% of the lowest valid price bid, purchase preference may be granted to the Public Enterprise concerned provided it agrees to make supply at the lowest valid bid rate.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Shortcomings in MBT Arjun

2567. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MAL HOTRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state ;

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 3rd Octooer, 1994 under the caption "Defence but Arjun is not ready for battle*', and

(b) If so, the reasons for the Arjun tank still *iot meeting tne requirement of the Army and the steps taken to remove the shortcomings ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MAL-L1KARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Army has already given its in-principle acceptance for induction of Main Battle Tank ARJUN for Service-use. Further ex ploitation trials by the troops on pre-produc tion series ARJUN tank are in progress. The data generated and observations made by the user-service are continuously analysed to make the desired improvement, so that the produc tion model is a state-of-the-art tank. ARJUN tank is expected to be productionised as soon as final go-ahead is given by the Army on completion of these trials. <'*

Delay in procurement by Ministry of Defence

2568. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MAL HOTRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in

The Hindustan Times' dated 30th June, 1993 under the caption "Red-tapism 'bulldozes 1AF safety steps";

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether, due to red-tapism and inordinate delays in the procurement of items by the Ministry of Defence, difficulties are being created not only for the defence forces but to the nation as well;

(d) if so, the details of the projects where clearance were inordinately delayed in each of the last five years alongwith the reasons far the delay; and

(e) the steps taken to check such delay henceforth 7

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) :(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Procurements are made on the basis of well designed procedures which have u> be adhered to. Final decision for inductio i of the equipment (bulldozer) was taken after detailed examination of all pros & cons of the proposal. Delay in the procurement or equipment was not allowed to affect flight safety as alternative arrangements to control growth of vegetation around runways were continuing.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Marketing of established brands by CSD

2569. SHRI O. P. KOHLI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) wnether the military canteens looated in Delhi such as Army Headquarters Canteen are marketing more of new brands than established iSltas thereby exploiting the interests of the consumers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps laken to give more attention towards the well established products than new products which are not substantially good;

(g) wnether there i» any proj^osal to bring about •haagw in tk« Misting rulM. procedure etc. to allow the supply of reputed items on the inventory of the CSD(I) Bombay by the local authorised stockist and suppliers duly approved by the organisation concerned to ensure timely availability of the items for the benefit of the consumers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKAFUUN) : (a) and (b) Military Canteens, incluc ing those located in Delhi, supply both established brands as veil as new brands from items included in the Canteen Stores Department list of items.

(c) and *(d)* The Depot Managers of the Canu in Stores Department are already authorised o place orders and procure certain items by th *;* suppliers in accordance with terms and conditions approved by CSD Head Office in Bom' ay. The inclusion of items in this category depends upon the arrangements of the suppliers, and on the existence of acceptable terms and conditions.

सोमालिया से भारतीय शांति-सेना को वापस बुलाना

2570. **श्री वी. नाराचणसामी** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृता करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने सोमालिया में तैनात की गयी संयुक्त राष्ट्र शान्ति सेना में से भारतीय टुकड़ी को वापस बुलाने का निर्णय किया है क्योंकि वहां भारतीय जवानों की हत्या की जा रही है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो भारतीय टुकडी को वापस बुलाया जाना कब से आरम्भ होने की संभावना है ?

रक्षा मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मल्लिकार्जुन): (क) और (ख) जी, नहीं । संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने सोमालिया से अपनी शांति सेना वापस बुलाने का निर्णय लिया है तदनुसार भारतीय सैनिकों को संयुक्त राष्ट्र द्वारा की गई प्रबंध व्यवस्था के अंतर्गत वापस लाया जा रहा है । भारतीय सैनिकों को वापस लाने का कार्य चल रहा है ।